

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/092,387	KUNIEDA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Corbett B. Coburn	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment 9 Feb 06.
- 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2, 3, 6-9, 11, 12, 15-18, 20, 21 & 24-34.
- 3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 - 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

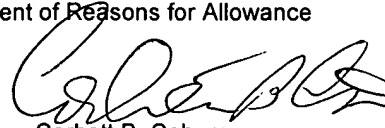
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- 4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ul style="list-style-type: none">5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|
- 
Corbett B. Coburn
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714
CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Hennessy on 24 April 2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 32, change the status identifier from –withdrawn—to –Amended--.

In Claim 33, change the status identifier from –withdrawn—to –Original--.

In Claim 34, change the status identifier from –withdrawn—to –Original--.

Election/Restrictions

4. Since claims 32-34 have been amended to depend from allowable claims, they have been rejoined to the case.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2, 3, 6-9, 11, 12, 15-18, 20, 21 & 24-34 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A thorough search of the prior art fails to disclose any reference or references, which, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest, in combination with the other limitations, changing an orientation of a prescribed part of a virtual character in a virtual space; changing a screen image in response to the change in orientation of the prescribed part and the movement of the virtual character in the virtual space, wherein the screen image represents a virtual field of

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view defined by a viewpoint other than a viewpoint of the virtual character and includes a whole image of the virtual character; and detecting an occurrence of a prescribed event, wherein the step of changing the orientation includes a step of changing the orientation of the prescribed part in response to the occurrence of the prescribed event, and wherein the prescribed event is selected from a plurality of events occurring in the virtual space.

Examiner interprets this to mean that the following sequence of events occurs in the game:

- a. The character is moving in a particular direction and the camera is behind the character.
- b. An event occurs in the virtual space. This event is not related to terrain (i.e., it is not the character coming to a wall or going around the corner), but involves an event such as an explosion, the appearance of an enemy, etc.
- c. *While the character continues to move in the initial direction*, the character's head automatically and without user input turns to face the event and the camera angle changes to match the movement of the head.

Miyamoto et al. (US Patent Number 6,283,857), the nearest prior art, teaches a similar sequence of events at Col 21, 43-60. Miyamoto teaches that if the game is in "Event Shooting Mode", the camera position is automatically changed to face the detected event, but Miyamoto explicitly discloses that the movement of the character and the enemy (if the event is an enemy) is "stopped to thereby maintain the relative positioning between Mario (i.e., the character) and an enemy prior to the event detection." (Col 21, 52-56)

Examiner can find no suggestion in the art to have the character continue moving while the camera angle (and thus the view of the virtual world displayed on the screen) changes. In

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fact continued movement could be potentially dangerous. Suppose, for instance, the character were advancing upon an enemy. An event takes place in the virtual world and the camera angle automatically changes to display that event, thus taking the enemy out of view. Continuing to advance toward the now-unseen enemy could be potentially disastrous.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

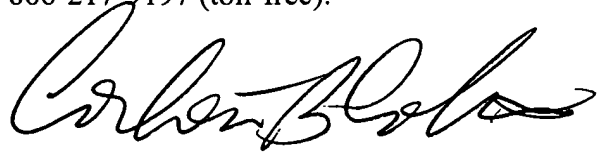
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Jones can be reached on (571) 272-4438. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn", with a stylized, flowing script.

Corbett B. Coburn
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**